

Mayor says city has exciting future

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — The city of Clemson enjoyed a successful 2017, and Mayor J.C. Cook said 2018 should see more positive developments.

“Busy is the word for what happened in the city of Clemson last year,” Cook told the audience at the annual State of Clemson program, hosted by the Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce at The Madren Center last week.

Among the achievements named by Cook in 2017 was completion of the Berkeley Drive pedestrian bridge and shared-use path near Clemson Elementary School. The new bridge can be used for walking or riding bicycles.

Cook also said the U.S. Highway 123-S.C. Highway 133 bridge replacement project finally moved forward.

“We’ve completed a portion of it so we can get the road back in shape,” he said.

The mayor also named a \$3 million investment on the new fire substation on Issaqueena Trail, the awarding of a contract to CAT for 10 new electric buses to go into service in Clemson in August, the Cochran Road Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion involving office facilities and additional sewer capacity, the addition of 55 new parking spaces and the reorganization of the downtown parking deck, in which kiosks

have been installed on the lower levels to replace metered spaces.

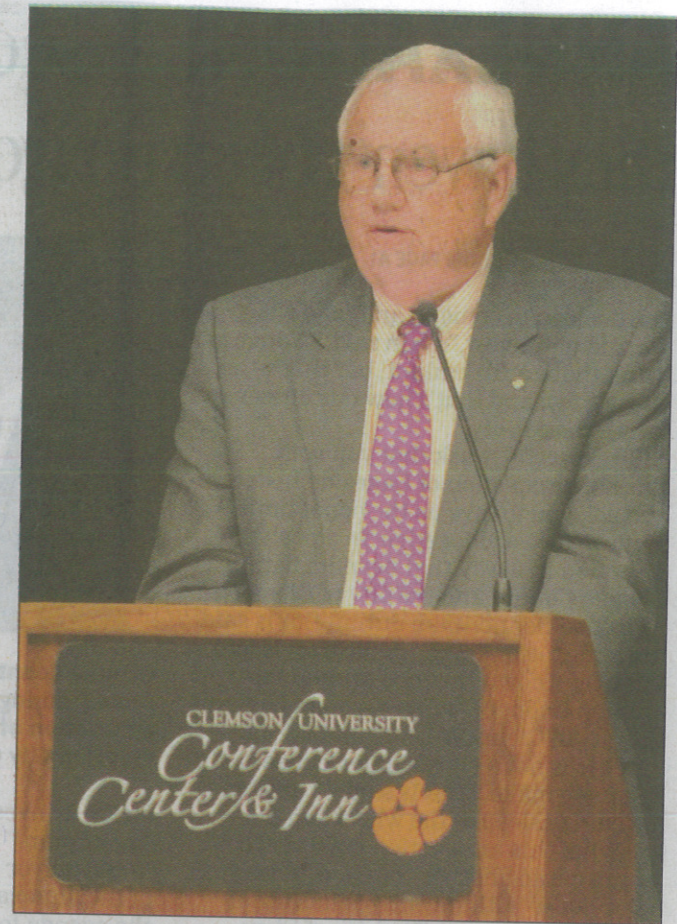
“You can use a credit card instead of coins and can add time to your app without going back to your car,” Cook said.

The city continues to grow, as Cook said more than \$80 million in building permits for construction were handed out in 2016-17, and \$154 million for the previous year.

“You can see that our building department has been very busy the last few years, and we don’t see that slowing down,” Cook said.

In looking ahead for 2018, Cook said some of the key issues include long-term financing for the wastewater treatment plant expansion, the Pacolet Milliken project on the old Milliken property on U.S. Highway 76 in Pendleton, work for a conceptual design for the new Downtown Welcome Center and police substation, a long-term design concept for College Avenue to improve pedestrian and biking access, exploring the ability to add a second parking deck in downtown Clemson and a potential redevelopment for Rubin Square.

Cook said the city is also working to develop lakeside lots, including some in parts of Anderson County, as well as Pickens



FILE
Clemson Mayor J.C. Cook, seen here speaking at the 2017 State of Clemson program at the Madren Center, said at this year’s event last week that the city has been busy over the past year.

County. City officials are also considering annexing the site of a proposed condominium development, Lakeside Lodge Clemson, on the shores of Lake Hartwell in Oconee County.

“If (the proposed annexation) takes place, we will be a three-county town, which will be amazing,” he said.

Rental housing inspections are also being studied by Clemson City Council.

“The goal is to make sure we have safe and

affordable housing,” he said. “There were a couple of fires in Clemson the last couple of months, and because there were smoke detectors, there was no loss of life.

“That’s why we want to make sure those who live in rental properties are safe.”

The mayor said Clemson has approximately 6,000 rental units, featuring a total of more than 13,700 beds.

goliver@upstatetoday.com | (864) 973-6687
Follow on Twitter @JournalGO